



Dodecanese

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- Marco Polo Mansion (p475)
- Melenos (p480)
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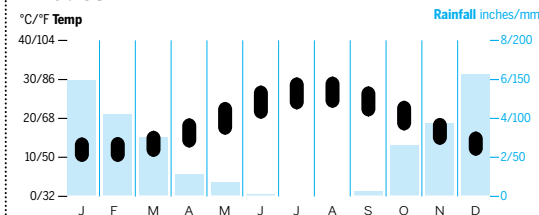
Why Go?

Ever pined for old Greece, where you can still catch a sense of that authentic magic? Enter the remote Dodecanese (Δωδεκάνησα; do-de-ka-ni-sa) Islands in the southeastern Aegean. The footprints of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, Italian occupation and medieval knights are all found here, and beyond better-known Rhodes and Kos there are enigmatic islands begging you to explore them.

Hikers, naturalists and botanists flock to Tilos, while climbers scale the limestone cliffs in Kalymnos; divers have underwater caves and ancient wrecks to explore, while kite-surfers visit southern Karpathos for its legendary winds. Archaeologists and history buffs have a bevy of ancient sites to let their imaginations loose, and sybarites can find myriad beaches, free of the package crowds, to worship Helios.

When to Go

Rhodes



Apr & May Prices are low, there are few tourists and the sea is warming up.

Jul & Aug Peak season for accommodation and visitors – book ahead.

Sep The best time to go: beaches are empty, the sea warm and hotel prices have dropped again.



Dodecanese Highlights

- 1 Wander beneath Byzantine arches and along the ancient cobbled alleyways of **Rhodes Old Town** (p470)
- 2 Follow the winding road up to the traditional mountaintop village of **Olymbos** (p489)
- 3 Test your mettle diving for wrecks or climbing limestone cliffs on **Kalymnos** (p517)
- 4 Find the deserted beach you've always dreamed of on **Lipsi** (p532)
- 5 Go hiking or birding on postcard-perfect **Tilos** (p498)
- 6 Enter the fabled volcano of **Nisyros** (p501), home to an imprisoned Titan
- 7 Feel your pulse quicken as your boat pulls into **Symi's** (p494) gorgeous Italianate harbour
- 8 Make a pilgrimage to **Patmos** (p527), where St John wrote his 'Revelations'